

प्रधान मन्त्री सचिवालय

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT.

फाइल संख्या

File No. 2(64)/56-67-PM

Vol III - 100

Pl. see Vol IV

विषय : 1. Death of ^{Netaji} ~~Subhas~~ Subhas Chandra Bose.

Subject :

Appointment of an enquiry committee to go into the circumstances of death.

Loek-M

RECORDED

PRS
12.11.62

"B"

NOTES	From
CORP.	

From To
P-1-23
S 1-162



Political Section

(Confidential/Secret)

F.N.2(64)/58-PM

Vol. III

May be recorded and indexed/~~destroyed~~.

Record:

Index :

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Surendra Mishra
31.10.84

Dit(s)

31/10/84

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

58-A
Calling Attention Notice dated 11.4.1965
by Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai.

Discussed with J.S.(P). A draft letter to the
Speaker is submitted for consideration. (F/V may H. also
be seen).

DEA.

(K.L. Gupta)
12.4.1965.

J.S.(P)

P.T.

Kal Bhadras
12/4

> 2601

-265-

Special Section

F.R.I. Letter dated 8.4.65 from the General Secretary, Haryana Azad Hind Fauj Sanstha, Rohtak.

.....

F.R.II. Letter dated 5-4-65 from Shri Dinesh Chandra, Meerut.

.....

F.R.III. Letter dated 17-4-65 from Shri Chandrika Prasad, Distt. C.C., Balia.

.....

F.R.I & II.

The writers of these letters have claimed that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is alive and that the Sanyasi of the Shaulmari Ashram is none else than Netaji. In support of their claim they have sent copies of a photograph in which a Sanyasi, having resemblance with Netaji Bose, has been shown standing by the side of the dead body of the late P.M. The photograph ~~was brought to our notice~~ was brought to our notice in July last and it was forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs, vide Sl.No.169-B.

In view of J.S.(C)'s orders contained in Min.No.218, the F.Rs. may be filed.

F.R.III.

In this letter, Shri Chandrika Prasad has stated that a public meeting was held in Balia recently in which it was claimed that Netaji Bose is alive and that he will appear on the 7th May, 1965. He has further sought P.M.'s guidance to counter such propaganda in regard to Netaji.

2. Shri Chandrika Prasad's letter may be acknowledged and filed.

PS
1-5-65

v.p. marwhe
1/5/65

Add PS

-266-

All these letters may be filed.

[Signature]


1/5

-268- 3

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

Please obtain the cutting relating to the articles referred to in Para 2 of the attached letter.

2. I have a recollection that Dr. Satya Narayan Sinha had come to Government's adverse notice and was interned for some time. Please let me see the relevant papers.


10.5.1965.

S.O. (Sol)

-270-

Dr. Satyanarayan Sinha's articles have been borrowed from the Press Information Bureau and are placed below.

2. The reference in para 2 of Addl. P.S.'s note above is apparently to the papers flagged in file No. 30(285)/62-65 PM, placed below.


13/5

V. P. Marwaha
13.5.65

Add PS

-271-

Shri Amiya Nath Bose has again written to P.M. asking for a Commission of Enquiry to be set up to go into the whole question of the alleged air-crash and Netaji's disappearance in August, 1945. He has been writing on this subject from time to time and we have had enough to do with this matter during the last two Parliament sessions when a number of questions about Netaji were answered.

2. Shri Bose has now referred to some articles written in the Ananda Bazar Patrika and the Hindusthan Standard by Dr. Satya Narayan Sinha in which he claims that Netaji is alive in Russia. He has also alleged that the Enquiry Committee presided over by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan did not visit Formosa for an on-the-spot enquiry at Taihoku even though the Japanese Government had made arrangements for them to go there.

3. We have some papers about Dr. Satya Narayan Sinha, the writer of the article, quoted by Shri Bose. In this connection, the papers flagged in the second file placed below may please be seen.

4. All papers regarding Netaji Enquiry Committee are in the Ministry of External Affairs. The Prime Minister's Secretariat has, however, been coming into picture in regard to this matter because of certain correspondence which certain persons have been having with P.M. and certain questions which are sometime publicly addressed to P.M. Before any action is taken on the present letter, it may be referred to the

P.T.O.

4

Ministry of External Affairs for remarks.

[Signature]
(K.L. Gupta)
17.5.1965.

J.S.(C)

-272-

*I think letters on this subject
may just be ignored and filed.*

[Signature]
17/5/65

Adm. (1) 17/5
[Signature]

17/5
See III

-275-

F.R. Telegram dated 31-5-1965 from Shri Amiya
Nath Bose, Calcutta.

Shri Amiya Nath Bose's letter dated the
7th May 1965, referred to in the F.R., was filed
in compliance with JS(C)'s orders contained in Min.
No.272. The telegram now received may also be
similarly added to the file without any action.

RS
2/6
Bm.
2.6.65.
Add/P.S.

-276-

I would not have ordinarily troubled J.S.(C)
with these papers in view of his explicit instruc-
tions. I am, however, doing so because of a
telegraphic reminder having been received from
Shri Amiya Nath Bose. His present telegram and any
further communications which he might address to us
on the subject may, however, be ignored as even if
we send him a reply now, it is not likely to satisfy
his keenness to continue his correspondence with the
Prime Minister on the subject.

V.P. Menon
2.6.65

J.S.(C)

[Signature]
2/6/65

2/6
See III

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

Reference (1) letter dated July 6, 1965 from
Shri Amiya Nath Bose, Calcutta;

(2) letter dated 5.7.1965 from Shri R.K. Bakshi,
Calcutta;

(3) letter dated 5.7.1965 from Shri
Krishnashawmy Ragunathan, Calcutta.

With his letter (F.R.1), Shri Amiya Nath Bose has forwarded a copy of his previous letter dated May 7, 1965, to which no reply was sent to him in accordance with JS(C)'s orders at minute 272. In this connection, attention is also invited to the Press cuttings which were submitted with serial No. 280-A and the article from the Tribune at flag 'L'. It appears that the demand for a further investigation into the death/disappearance of Netaji is again gaining momentum in West Bengal as a result of the publication of some articles by Dr. Satya Narayan Sinha. In these articles he has stated that Netaji is now in a Russian concentration camp. It is also likely that the matter would be raised in some form in the forthcoming Parliament session.

2. J.S(C) may kindly see and decide whether he would like to bring these papers to P.M.'s notice for any further directions. It is also for orders whether any reply need be sent to the aforesaid letters.

(K.L. GUPTA)
13.7.1965.

J.S(C)

- 289 -

PM might like to see for information.
I do not think any other action is necessary.
There are some people who just won't take 'No'
for an answer and keep demanding inquiries as to
whether Netaji is alive. We have now begun to
take no notice of such communications, and shall
continue to do so.

Rajeshwar Prasad
14.7.65

See enclosed
14/7

min 319

PM

15/7

see III

b


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PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

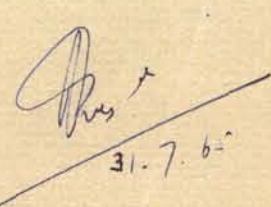
✓291B
Subject:- Starred Question Dy.No.1573 for Rajya Sabha
by Shri P.C. Mitra.

✓291A
The Rajya Sabha Secretariat have asked for facts relating to the above question. In this connection, attention is invited to Minutes 268 onwards in the file placed below. It will be seen that Dr. Satyanarain Sinha's articles alleging that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is a prisoner in Russian hands, were brought to our notice but it was decided not to take any action. The papers were also shown to P.M.

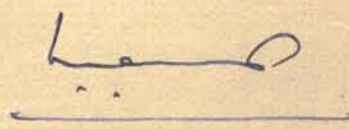
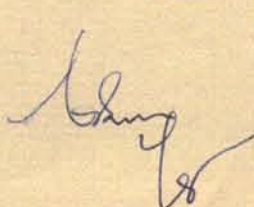
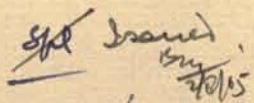
2. The subject matter of the question, however, is related to the Netaji Bose Enquiry Committee Report, which was dealt with by the Ministry of External Affairs. The question may, therefore, be transferred to that Ministry.


(K.L. Gupta)
31.7.1965

J.S. (C)


31.7.65

293-
After issue of the transfer memo placed below,
J.S. (P) may also pl. see for info.


2/8

J.S. (P)
J.S. (P) 
J.S. (P)

7

SPECIAL SECTION

✓ -304-

✓ 297-A
F.R.

U.O. No. SQ. 6608/16.8/65-Q dt. 5.8.65 from
the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat have called for facts from us in regard to a Starred Question, tabled by Shri Surendranath Dwivedy, regarding Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

2. The position in regard to part (a) of the question is that we had come across a press report about the resolution passed by the Calcutta Bar Association on the 9th July, 1965, demanding constitution of a commission of inquiry, consisting of eminent jurists to make a fresh inquiry regarding Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The press report was filed after it had been seen by P.M.

3. The reference in part (b) of the question is apparently to the late P.M.'s letter at Sl.No.82-A, which was in reply to Shri Suresh Chandra Bose's letter at Sl.No.81-A. In that letter Panditji had stated:-

"You ask me to send you proof of the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. I cannot send you any precise and direct proof. But all the circumstantial evidence that has been produced and which has been referred to in the Enquiry Committee's report has convinced us of the fact that Netaji has died."

In reply to Shri Suresh Chandra Bose's subsequent letter, Panditji had written to him as follows:-

"I wrote to you that all the circumstantial evidence made me believe that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had died. Much of this evidence was given in the report made by the committee appointed for this purpose, which visited Japan. You will find the date, place and circumstances mentioned in that Committee's report."

"Apart from that report, the length of time that has elapsed is itself confirmatory of the fact of his death."

4. The subject matter of the question is related to the Netaji Inquiry Committee Report, which was dealt with by the Ministry of External Affairs. The question may, therefore, be transferred to that Ministry. While proposing transfer of the Question, we may post the External Affairs Ministry with the information contained in para 3 above.

RS
10/8

V. P. Marwaha
10 8 65

US(s)

-305-

The EA Min. have called for a report from the Indian Embassy Moscow regarding the allegations made recently about Netaji being a prisoner in Russian

8 from cricket

lands. His decision may be transferred to
That thing. May have assisted transfer of
another decision on this subject in the
Rajya Sabha.

hand
10/8

TS(c) Rajeshwar Prasad
10.8.65

TS (P) Chandra
10/8

P.T.
Recd. Secy. Secy.
10/8

-306-

Fair Office Memorandum to the Ministry
of External Affairs, proposing transfer of the
question to them, is put up for signature.

DC
11/8

V-P. Marathe
11.8.65

us(s)

hand
11/8

10/11/8
8/11/8
11/8

307A

see 111

307A

9

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PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

Letter dated August 8, 1965 from Shri
Amiya Nath Bose.

The papers referred to in the press note sent by Shri Bose have been flagged in the files placed below. With reference to portion side-lined 'A' on page 1 of the press note, it may be stated that the matter was referred to the Chief Minister, West Bengal who agreed that there was nothing further that could be done. A draft reply to Shri Bose was prepared but it was decided not to issue it. Since then, we have been ignoring the letters received on this subject from Shri Bose and others. This practice was last brought to P.M.'s notice on 14.7.1965 and he agreed with it.

2. Shri Bose has now sought an interview with P.M. to discuss this matter. If P.M. agrees to see Shri Bose, the latter is likely to insist on some further enquiry being made. It would perhaps be better to decline his request.

3. In this connection, it may be mentioned that the E.A. Ministry have already called for a report from our Embassy in Moscow regarding the allegations recently made about Netaji being a prisoner in Russian hands.


(K.L. Gupta)
12.8.1965

J.S.(C)

PS & PM may also please see.


12/8

PS & PM
J.S.(C)
R.H.
12/8/65
S.P. Khanna
12.8.1965

Letter may be acknowledged..
12/8

PS & PM

P.T.O.

(from pre-page)

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Please issue letter below to Shri Amiya Nath Bose.

After issue, the papers may be shown to Addl. Private Secretary (Res).

S.P. Khanna.
(S.P. Khanna)
13-8-1965.

300A
Issued
13/8

Insalw
Addl. PS (Resi) 13.8.65
P. S. I (Shri S. P. Khanna)

2400

310A

111

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

x 312-B

Dr. Satya Narain Sinha's articles referred to by Shri Hemanta Kumar Basu had come to Government's notice. Enquiries were made from our Embassy in Moscow, whose reply may please be seen at Sr.No.312-B. A Parliament Question on this subject was also answered in the Rajya Sabha on 17.8.1965 by the E.A. Ministry. Still another question answered by that Ministry is at Sr.No.317-A. Before this, we have also dealt with a large number of questions on this issue.

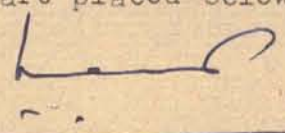
x 312-C

The obstinacy with which this controversy is being kept alive is really amazing. The only way in which this can be dealt with is, perhaps, to ignore it. In fact, we have, for some time, been filing all letters in this regard.

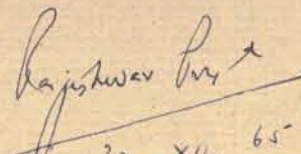
x Min. 288-289

MFA (320-A)

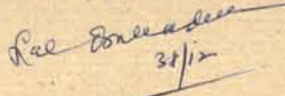
P.M. may, however, like to reply to the Chief Minister, West Bengal, as in the draft placed below.


(K.L. Gupta)
30.12.1965

JS(C)


30. XII. 65

PM


31/12

PA 607

Most Immediate.

Ministry of External Affairs
(East Asia Division)

Prime Minister's Secretariat

The following information is urgently required

in connection with an enquiry received by the Foreign
Minister:-

Whether there has been any request in
the past for the supply of proceedings of Netaji
Enquiry Committee and whether such request was
refused by the Ministry.

2. It is, therefore, requested that papers,
if any, pertaining to such request may be sent to
us urgently.

the subject.

(K.L. Gupta)
Under Secretary

Sd/- B.P. Agarwal
Under Secretary (East Asia)

321 PMF/66

27/4/66

Prime Minister's Secretariat (Section Officer Shri Marwaha)
Attache N.G.O.
Historical Division.

P.T.O.

2(64)
1(A)

Min-322, 7

13 From Inpage -

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Most Immediate

Ministry of External Affairs
(Political Division)

Prime Minister's Secretariat.

.....

On March 29, 1965, Dr. Sisir K. Bose,
General Secretary, Netaji Research Bureau, Netaji
Bhavan, Calcutta, had addressed a letter to the
late Prime Minister about the records relating
to the Netaji Inquiry Committee. The letter was
acknowledged and forwarded, in original, for appropriate
action to the Ministry of External Affairs with this
Secretariat's endorsement No.2(64)/65-PM dated the
3rd April, 1965. We have no other information on
the subject.

18/19/4

(K.L. Gupta)
Under Secretary.

Ministry of External Affairs

(Shri B.P. Agarwal - U.S.)

P.M.'s Sectt. U.O. No.2(64)/56-65 PM dt. 15.4.66.

15/19/4

Issued
18/19/4.

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14

SPECIAL SECTION

x MW-321

F.R. Note dated 14.4.66 from the Ministry of External Affairs.

③ sent in original

In March, 1965, we had received a letter addressed to the late Prime Minister by Dr. Sisir K. Bose, General Secretary, Netaji Research Bureau, Netaji Bhavan, Calcutta, containing some request about the records relating to the Netaji Inquiry Committee. As the Ministry of External Affairs are concerned with the records reg. the Committee, the letter was forwarded, in original, to that Ministry vide our endorsement at Sl.No. 255-A. We have no other paper about the matter referred to in the F.R.

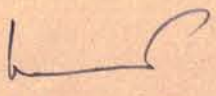
2. The F.R. may be endorsed as under:-

"On March 29, 1965, Dr. Sisir K. Bose, General Secretary, Netaji Research Bureau, Netaji Bhavan, Calcutta, had addressed a letter to the late Prime Minister about the records relating to the Netaji Inquiry Committee. The letter was acknowledged and forwarded, in original, ^{for appropriate action} to the Ministry of External Affairs with this Secretariat's endorsement No. 2(64)/65-PM dated the 3rd April, 1965. We have no other information on the subject".

R
14/4

us(5)

V.P. Narverhe
14/4


14/4

Mir-323 ←

R - 331 -

x. Mill-332
I am sorry for the length of
this note but as this question is
likely to be raised again & again,
I thought J.S. should have the
complete background. The supporting
files have not been put up, with
a view to avoiding bulk. J.S.
may kindly ask for them, if
required.



19/5

~~J.S.~~

→ Mill-332,

15

-332-

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

x 330-A

Letter dated 14.5.1966 from Shri Prasanta Sengupta

Transcript

"Foreign Minister answered a question in Rajya Sabha today. Examine and put up a note please."

Sd/-(S. Banerji)

17/5

Pol

In response to the public demand that all the facts relating to the last stages of Netaji's life should be enquired into and made known, an Enquiry Committee was appointed by the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs in April, 1956. The Committee consisted of Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose (elder brother of Netaji) and Shri S.N. Maitra, Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The report of this Committee which was signed by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan and Shri S.N. Maitra, was released in September, 1956. The Government of India accepted the report. The third member, namely, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose did not sign the report but later on submitted a separate report dissenting from the findings of the majority report. After laying a copy of this report on the table of the Parliament on 11.9.1956, the late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru made a statement in which he said inter alia that Government felt that the evidence adduced in the report was practically overwhelming and should be accepted. The conclusion reached by the Enquiry Committee was that Netaji met his death as a result of an air crash at Taihoku air-field in Formosa on August 18, 1945 and his ashes are now at Renkoji temple in Tokyo.

2. Certain elements, particularly in West Bengal and especially some members of Netaji's family have tried to keep alive the controversy by maintaining that Netaji is still alive.

3. In 1962, as a result of certain articles published by Shri Uttam Chand Malhotra, a controversy arose that the Sanyasi of Shaulmari Ashram was in fact Netaji. Soon after this, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, M.P. went to Shaulmari Ashram and stayed there for two days. During his stay, he spent 5 hours with the Sadhu. It was his definite view that the Sadhu is not Netaji. Shri R.R. Das, Secretary of the Ashram publicly declared in October, 1962 that the founder of the Shaulmari Ashram who is generally known as Swami Saradanandaji was not Subhash Chandra Bose nor had he ever had any connection whatsoever with the family in which Netaji was born. A Bengali leaflet published by the Shaulmari Ashram reiterated that the Swami was born of a Brahmin family in East Bengal and was not Netaji.

4. In August, 1962, replying to Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, Panditji said that apart from the Committee's report, the length of time that has elapsed was itself confirmatory of the fact of Netaji's death. In April, 1964, Shri Amiya Nath Bose wrote to Panditji suggesting

P.T.O.

that there should be an official judicial finding regarding the air-crash at Taihoku and that the Chief Justice of India may be requested to preside over a body of Judges to enquire into this question. In his reply dated April 22, 1964, Panditji stated as under:-

"I agree with you that something should be done to finalise the question of Netaji's death. But it is not quite clear to me how far it will be proper for me to ask the Chief Justice of India to look into this matter. It may involve visiting Japan, and I am sure I cannot ask the Chief Justice to do so."

5. In August, 1964, Shri Amiya Nath Bose invited late P.M., Shri Shastri's attention to the aforesaid correspondence with Panditji and reiterated his demand for a judicial enquiry. Shastriji consulted the Chief Minister, West Bengal who advised that nothing further could be done. This was made clear by Shastriji in reply to a Parliament Question in the Lok Sabha on November 23, 1964. Again, while replying to some pressmen at Varanasi on 27.12.1964 he reiterated that Government had on many occasions made statements in Parliament about the Sanyasi of Shaulmari Ashram not being Netaji. The late P.M. also referred to the fact that the Sanyasi had himself said many a time that he was not Netaji. The late P.M. had, however, added that he would again contact the Chief Minister, West Bengal in the matter. Apparently, the intention was to request the Chief Minister to reiterate the position in view of the propaganda that was still being carried on in certain quarters. This was done by the Chief Minister, West Bengal in Shastriji's presence at Calcutta on January 12, 1965. While replying to certain Press Reporters the Chief Minister stated that the State Government had made enquiries and found that Netaji was not at Shaulmari Ashram and that the reports to this effect were incorrect. This position was also made clear in reply to a Parliament Question in the Rajya Sabha on March 2, 1965.

6. In July, 1965, Dr. Satya Narayan Sinha, an ex-M.P. made a statement that he had definite proof that Netaji was confined in a Russian concentration camp in Yakutsk (Siberia) and that he was seen in Cell No.46. Although this report was prima facie not quite believable, our Embassy in Moscow brought the story informally to the attention of the Soviet Foreign Office. They had already seen this report and stated that there was no basis whatsoever in the story and that it was a mischievous invention.

7. As, in spite of repeated denials, certain elements were interested in continuing to believe in the myth of Netaji being alive, it was decided that further correspondence on this subject should normally be ignored.

8. In February, 1966, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, the elder brother of Netaji, made a statement at Madurai saying that "Netaji is alive today" and that he would be back in India in March. Like many previous prophecies this also proved incorrect. On 14.3.1966, the Foreign Minister again reiterated in answer to a

Parliament Question that Government accepted the findings of the Shah Nawaz Committee. Another statement is reported to have been made recently by Shri Dwijendranath Bose, nephew of Netaji and General Secretary of the All-India Forward Bloc, that Netaji was still alive and was working at a place very near the borders of India. He had added that Netaji was still working for India and would come out into the open and enter India at the appropriate time in such a way that he can establish a new order in the country. The Foreign Minister while answering a further question on this subject in the Rajya Sabha on May 17, 1966 stated that the Government had accepted the findings of the Shah Nawaz Committee and had not come across any further information that would contradict the findings of the Enquiry Committee. In reply to supplementaries, the Foreign Minister added that the Press of India being free we could not prevent people from continuing to make statements about Netaji being alive. He also stated that there was no intention to set up another Committee as Government was satisfied with the conclusions arrived at by the previous Committee.

9. As regards Netaji's ashes in Renkoji temple, Tokyo, the Foreign Minister promised to look into the matter of their being brought back to the country. Evidently, Government cannot move in this matter unless Netaji's family accepts that Netaji is in fact no longer alive and that these ashes are really his.

10. In view of the facts mentioned above, no useful purpose would be served by our replying to letters on this subject because some persons are bent upon not treating the issue as closed.

(K.L. Gupta)
19.5.1966

J.S.

- 334 -

I have read Shri Gupta's note carefully and agree with what he says in para 10.

K. Natwar. ~~EX~~
20.5.66.

J.S.

21/5/66

21/5 (Sd)

Sd.

21/5

Pol III

- 333 -

Would you
kindly examine
& comment
Shri N. Supl. 20/5

343-
POLITICAL SECTION

18

342-A
F.R. U.O. No.22/68/66-Poll(II) dated 5/7-11-66
from the Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

The Ministry of Home Affairs have requested us for material to answer the Short Notice Question at F/'S' in which it has been asked whether the late P.M. sent two Members of Parliament to meet the founder of the Shaulmari Ashram and to make an enquiry.

2. We have looked up our relevant file. There is no paper on the subject referred to in the Question. The Home Ministry may be informed accordingly. Draft reply is put up.

RS
8/11

R. P. Marathe

8/11/66

DS (Pearl)

S.D. Khanna
8.11.66.

→ 344-A

348-
19
Political Section

As no reply to our u.o. note at F/'P' appears to have been received from the Defence Ministry, fair reminder is put up for signature.


R
8/3

V. P. Marathe

8.3.67

Dsc (sp)

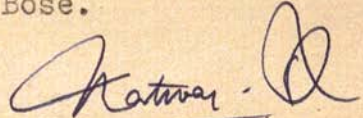
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4. Natun. 
9.3.67

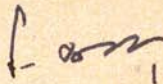
PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

Some time back Shri Sisir K. Bose, Executive Director of the Netaji Research Bureau, Calcutta, had written to P.M. suggesting that Netaji's sword which was being brought back to India should be received with military honours when it arrives in Calcutta on March 19, 1967.

We had referred the matter to the Ministry of Defence and had also sent Shri Bose an acknowledgement. The Ministry of Defence have now written vide their U.O. at Flag 'C' saying that a brass band from Dinapur will be arranged on the occasion of the presentation of Netaji's sword. No other military honours are proposed to be accorded. Shri Kakkar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence has also said that they will be informing the Bureau accordingly. It might perhaps be a good idea for us also to inform Shri Bose.


(K. Natwar Singh)
13-3-1967

J.S.


18/3/67
DHK

Defence Minister has marked this
file for P.M.'s information. It's about
the Ceremony Centering around
Metaji's Swastika which is being
brought to New Delhi. The speaker
will receive it at a function to be
held in ~~Delhi~~ the Res Fort.

Army Band would be in
attendance. D.M. has agreed to this.

P. D. Khosla
1/12

P.M.
Secy
P.D. Khosla
242-9
P.D.

Ref. to Ref. Secy
No. DMS-23585
dt. 6/12/67

S. V.

P.D.

Secretary may kindly see Shri M.L. Sondhi's (MP) letter to PM asking for her "support to the project of bringing Netaji's sword to Delhi". Apparently, some such weapon had been received in Calcutta from Japan, by Netaji's family purporting to be the sword which he donned.

2. PM gave me this letter and asked what kind of support Shri Sondhi expected. As far as I can make out, this is a kind of circular printed letter which Shri Sondhi must have sent round to many people. Nothing specific has been asked for, now is this one specifically directed to PM as such. It seems to me that what we might do is to send a polite acknowledgment, with thanks, to Shri Sondhi on PM's behalf. If and when he pursues this matter, we can consider whether and what more need to be done. Meanwhile, we can send a copy of this letter to IB and ask them to quietly find out more about Sondhi's committee and the programme.

P. Banerji

(S. Banerji)
24.10.67

Secretary

The letter-head refers to "All party Committee. Surely Congress Party must be a member. Why not telephone to the Secretary of the Congress Parliamentary Party and find out. IB may also be asked.

P. Banerji
28/11

J.S.

The Secretaries of the Congress Party could not be consulted because they were not in station. However, I have made enquiries from the Party office and they tell me that they have no information about this Committee. The Department of Parliamentary Affairs have also no information on the subject.

2. I have spoken to Shri Varma, Director, Intelligence Bureau and he says that the party was set up only a few days ago but they have at the moment no detailed information about it. Shri Varma has promised to make enquiries and let us the position as soon as possible.

S.P. Khanna.
(S.P. Khanna)
31.10.67.

J.S.

Spoken to J.S. The promised note has not so far been received from D.I.B. Please issue U.O. note below to him. Meanwhile, Prof. Sondhi's letter may be acknowledged as in the letter below.

S.P. Khanna
(S.P. Khanna)
4.11.67

Political

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT
(Political Section)

22

...

F.R.I U.O.No.6/DG/67(52) dated the 9th November, 1967, Intelligence Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

F.R.II U.O.No. 6/DG/67(52) dated the 22nd November, 1967, Intelligence Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

...

✓ Serial No. 1

It will be recalled that in October last, Shri M.L. Sondhi, M.P. had addressed a letter to P.M. in his capacity as convenor of All-Party Parliamentary Committee for Reception of Netaji's sword. The letter was not an exclusive communication to P.M. but a circular one in which he had sought "support to the project of bringing Netaji's sword to Delhi." Pursuant to the notes recorded by J.S. and Secretary at p.l/N. information about the above-mentioned Committee has been obtained from the Intelligence Bureau, which is briefly as follows:

The sword in question was presented to Netaji in Japan in 1942-43 by a Japanese political leader. It was carried personally by a Japanese Army General, Mr. I. Yuki Fuziama to India and handed over to the Director of the Netaji Museum in Calcutta at a function in March, 1967 at which the then West Bengal Governor was also present.

In August last, the marginally mentioned 6 M.P's decided to send a people's petition to the Union President demanding appointment of a fresh commission to enquire into the circumstances about Netaji's disappearance and to take suitable steps to honour him and redress the grievances of ex-INA personnel. Their 8 specific demands may kindly be seen listed in the I.B.'s report at F/'B'.

While the proposed National Committee on Netaji has yet to be formed, Shri M.L. Sondhi, convenor, is active in this regard. The aims and objects are being drafted and a list of members being prepared and Shri Sondhi has, through a circular letter, sought donations from prominent M.P's for reception to be accorded to the Sword. No members of the Congress Party are known to have responded to the request.

Shri Sondhi told pressmen in New Delhi on November 5, that the sword would arrive in New Delhi from Calcutta in the first week of December, 1967. This would be the main highlight of a 2-month programme (Nov. 23, 1967 to January 23, 1968 - Netaji's birthday) in the country to focus attention on various aspects of Netaji's life. The All-Party Parliamentary Committee was finalising the programme and was keen that the sword formed a part of the ensuing Republic Day parade. The sword, which would be brought from Calcutta in a special coach would be received in Delhi by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Delhi Metropolitan Council. It was proposed to accord the sword full military honours on its arrival and to place it on public exhibition outside the Red Fort. Besides the reception to the sword, it was planned to hold seminars and symposia, publish literature and Netaji's letters, hold an exhibition of his works and to establish a Netaji museum in collaboration with the Netaji Bhavan of Calcutta.

23

In his letter to P.M., Shri Sondhi had, besides seeking support for bringing the Sword to Delhi, also invited "your views on the most appropriate way in which the capital should receive and do honour" to the sword. His letter was briefly acknowledged vide S.No. 3. In view of the fact that he has not since reverted to the matter and no Congress M.P. has associated himself with the project, it is perhaps, not necessary to evince any further interest on P.M.'s behalf. As observed by J.S. in his note of October 24, if and when he pursues the matter, it can be considered whether and what more needs to be done.

8.11.67

KLC!
27.11.

Bm
27.11.67.

r.p. marathe
27.11.67

DS (Adm)

M. K. Sharma
29.11.67.

J.S.

J. om
1/12

Dr A

1.12
1/12
W.S. (has seen)
Polm

ALL-PARTY

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR RECEPTION OF NETAJI'S SWORD

Convenor: Prof.M.L. Sondhi
Member of Parliament for New Delhi.

14, Meena Bagh
New Delhi.

PROGRAMME

- 1600 hours Ceremonial Reception of Sword, Boots and Cap of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy and the Chairman Metropolitan Council, Shri L.K. Advani at the Delhi Main Railway Station.
- 1620 hours Procession starts
- 1800 hours President of India, Dr. Zakir Hussain arrives at Red Fort and is received by Lt.Governor of Delhi, Shri A.N. Jha.
- 1805 hours Sword Procession enters Dewan-e-Aam and proceeds towards the Rostrum (Army Band in Attendance).
- 1810 hours President receives the Sword and garlands the Sword.
- 1815 hours Remarks by President inaugurating the public viewing of Sword, Boots and Cap in Delhi.
- 1820 hours Speech by the Vice President of India, Shri V.V.Giri.
- 1830 hours Speech by Shrimati Indira Gandhi.,
- 1835 hours Speeches by leaders of other Political Parties.
- 1855 hours Closing remarks by the Lt.Governor of Delhi, Shri A.N. Jha.
- 1900 hours National Anthem
President of India departs from Red Fort.

Shri Sondhi has sent this programme.
He to the Committee would like to go to Red
Fort at 6 pm on Sunday 12th.

Moteshan
15/12

Is it necessary for me to

Speak?

Secretary has spoken to Sondhi
that PD would not speak.

Moteshan
15/12

ALL - PARTY

Parliamentary Committee for Reception of Netaji's Sword

Convenor : Prof. M. L. SONDHI.
Member of Parliament for New Delhi.

14, Meena Bagh,
New Delhi

13.12.67

Dear Prime Minister,

You are aware the President of India, Dr. Zakir Hussain has agreed to the ceremonial reception of the Sword, Boots and Cap of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at 6 p.m. on Sunday, the 17th December, 1967 inside the Red Fort.

Talked to Secy.
I think P.M.
should
accept &
if possible
attend.

Shri Amiya Nath Bose, M.P. has requested you to participate in the function at the Red Fort. I trust you will kindly grace the occasion with your presence and speak for a few minutes in praise of Netaji who stands for National Integration.

We have already requested the Vice-President who was associated with Netaji to make a speech on the occasion.

The Lt. Governor of Delhi Shri A.N. Jha will preside at the function which has as its purpose the emphasis of national integration in the capital city of India.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. L. Sondhi
(M. L. Sondhi

Shrimati Indira Gandhi,
Prime Minister of India,
NEW DELHI

14.12.67

PM 14/12



3

REMEMBER

REMEMBER

NETAJI'S SWORD

WHICH

FOUGHT FOR

INDIA'S

FREEDOM



Donated by Veerendra Printers, New Delhi-5.

Netaji National Committee

All Party Parliamentary Committee for Reception of Netaji's Sword.

Convenor : Prof. M. L. Sondhi, M. P.

Netaji's Sword Reception, Red Fort.

18-12-1967

A

Rebel from his boyhood, Netaji Subhas became one of the immortal patriots in our country's long history.

He commands such immense admiration and affection in our people's hearts that the nation universally calls him Netaji.

Bankim Chandra gave us our first national song - Vande Mataram. Rabindranath Tagore gave us Jana Gana Mana. Both became our rallying calls during our freedom struggle and mantras of our unity. The third great mantra of our unity also came from an illustrious son of Bengal. It was Netaji who gave us Jai Hind - words which we hear everyday throughout the country.

This great patriot, who loved Mother India with a love unsurpassed and thought of it every minute of his life, had to spend long years outside the country. First as a student, then in search of health and then as an exile fighting for the country's freedom with the sword - with this sword. This sword therefore is a fitting symbol of Netaji's endeavour.

Our war of independence was fought with another kind of sword. We fought under Gandhiji and with non-violence. Netaji was a great general of this war. But right through he made it clear that he did not accept non-violence. He was always a man of complete candour and outspokenness. And when the war broke out, he left the country so that he could fight with the sword for India's freedom.

Let us not forget that Gandhiji himself, unshakable as his faith in non-violence was, declared that if it was a choice between cowardice and violence, he himself would choose the sword.

12/12/67

Netaji built up the Indian National Army. The INA's deeds electrified India when news of it came to us piercing the curtain of censorship which Britain had put around the country. The impact of INA combined with quit India movement to take us to the threshold of freedom.

Therefore in the history of our freedom struggle, Netaji is not a rebel who fought in vain but a rebel who was victorious.

And this sword ranks with the swords of Chandragupta, Shivaji, Guru Gobind Singh and Rani Laxmibai in being a symbol of our sturdy independence and inflexible will. It is a symbol of our pride and our freedom.

Netaji gave the cry "Chalo Delhi". He vowed to set foot only in an India which was free. Today his sword returns to a free India, fulfilling Netaji's dreams. It is a memorable day for all patriots, and a significant event in our own lives.

....

Netaji's sword Reception

17-12-1967.

Points in Hindi

Page 2(64)

नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस का नाम हमारे देश के इतिहास में
अमर है। वे बचपन से ही विद्रोही थे।

सारे देश के दिल में ~~उनके~~ उनके प्रति अथाह प्रेम और श्रद्धा है।
इसी कारण उन्हें हम लोग नेताजी कहते हैं।

बन्दे-मातरम का अमर गीत देश को बंकिम चन्द्र ने दिया और
जन-गण-मन हमें रवीन्द्र नाथ टैगोर से प्राप्त हुआ। ये दोनों हमारे राष्ट्र
गान हैं। आज़ादी की लड़ाई में इन गीतों से हमें बहुत बड़ी शक्ति मिली है।
ये गीत दर-असल देश की एकता के मन्त्र हैं। और हमारा सबसे प्रसिद्ध नारा
‘जय-हिन्द’ हमें नेताजी ने दिया।

नेताजी के मन में मातृ-भूमि के प्रति अपार प्रेम था, बड़ा देश-भक्ति
थी और जीवन के अन्तिम क्षण तक वह अपने देश के बारे में ही सोचते रहे।
जीवन के अन्तिम दिनों में उन्हें कई वर्ष देश के बाहर बिताने पड़े। देश की
आज़ादी की लड़ाई के लिए वह देश छोड़ कर दूसरे देशों में गये और इसी तलवार
से उन्होंने हमारी आज़ादी की लड़ाई लड़ी। यह तलवार नेताजी की वीरता
का प्रतीक है।

हमने अपनी आज़ादी की लड़ाई एक दूसरे किस्म की तलवार से लड़ी।
हमारे नेता गान्धीजी थे जिन्होंने हमें अहिंसा का पाठ पढ़ाया। नेताजी इस
युद्ध के बहुत बड़े सेनानी थे। नेताजी ने यह बराबर कहा कि उन्हें अहिंसा में
विश्वास नहीं है। उन्होंने अपने विचार बराबर साफ लफ्जों में सब के सामने
जाहिर किया और जब विश्व युद्ध शुरू हुआ तो वे वह अपना देश छोड़ कर विदेश
चले गये। विदेश इस लिये गये ताकि वह हमारी आज़ादी की लड़ाई तलवार के

बल पर लड़ कर हमें आज़ाद करा सकें ।

गान्धी जी अहिंसा में विश्वास रखते थे लेकिन उन्होंने यह कहा था कि यदि कायरता और हिंसा के बीच मुझे चुनाव करना पड़े तो वे हिंसा का पक्ष लेंगे ।

नेताजी ने आज़ाद-हिन्द फौज की स्थापना की । आज़ाद हिन्द फौज के गठन की खबर उस ज़माने में सारे ^{देश} में बिजली की तरह फैल गयी । उस ज़माने में हमपर अंग्रेज़ों का राज्य था और बाहर की खबरें हमें बहुत मुश्किल से मिलती थीं । नेताजी ने ऊँधर आज़ाद हिन्द फौज का गठन किया और उसी समय हमारे देश में भारत छोड़ो आन्दोलन ~~का~~ चला । इन दोनों का ही यह नतीजा हुआ कि हम आज़ादी की मंजिल पर पहुँच सकें ।

हमारे देश की आज़ादी की लड़ाई के इतिहास में नेताजी का नाम सिर्फ़ इस लिये अमर नहीं है कि वह एक विद्रोही योद्धा थे बल्कि वह दर-असल विजयी योद्धा थे ।

आज जो यहाँ तलवार आप लोगों के सामने है वह इतनी ही पवित्र है जितनी की चन्द्रगुप्त, शिवाजी, गुरु गोविन्द सिंह और रानी लक्ष्मीबाई की तलवारें हमारे लिये पवित्र हैं । यह तलवार हमारी आज़ादी की लड़ाई के गौरव और अभिमान का प्रतीक है ।

नेताजी ने 'चलो दिल्ली' का नारा दिया था । उनकी प्रतीज्ञा थी कि वह स्वाधीन भारत में ही कदम रखेंगे । आज नेताजी की तलवार स्वाधीन भारत में आई है, उनका सपना साकार हुआ । सभी देश भक्तों के लिये आजका दिन याद करने लायक होगा और हमारे लिये यह एक महत्वपूर्ण घटना है ।

Red Fort Ceremony
17-12-1967

8

Rebel from his boyhood, Netaji Subhas became one of the immortal patriots in our country's long history.

He commands such immense admiration and affection in our people's hearts that the nation universally calls him Netaji.

Bankim Chandra gave us our first national song - Vande Mataram. Rabindranath Tagore gave us Jana Gana Mana. Both became our rallying calls during our freedom struggle and mantras of our unity. The third great mantra of our unity also came from an illustrious son of Bengal. It was Netaji who gave us Jai Hind - words which we hear everyday throughout the country.

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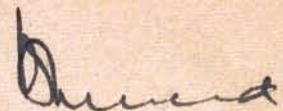
SECRET

INTELLIGENCE BUREAU
(Ministry of Home Affairs)

Subject:- All-Party Parliamentary Committee for reception of Netaji's sword.

P.M's Sectt. may please refer to this office U.O. No. 6/DG/67(52) dated November 9, 1967, on the above subject.

Further enquiries reveal that the Sword was presented to Netaji, while he was in Japan some times in 1942-43 by a political leader of Japan. The Sword was carried personally by a Japanese Army General Mr. I.YUKI FUZIAMA to India and was handed over to Netaji Museum in Calcutta. Shri Sisir Bose, Director of the Museum Committee received the same at a function held in Calcutta on March 19, 1967 which was attended among others by Shrimathi Padmaja Naidu, the then Governor of West Bengal.


(K.N. Prasad) 40,
Deputy Director

P.M's Sectt. (Shri S.P. Khanna)
D.I.B. U.O. No. 6/DG/67(52) dated the

22 NOV 1967

VDP
22/11(2)

139267

11
Secret

INTELLIGENCE BUREAU
(Ministry of Home Affairs)

.....

2 a.m.
Sub:- All-Party Parliamentary Committee for reception of
Netaji's sword.

P.M.'s Secretariat may please refer to their U.O. No.
PMS-21386 dated November 4, 1967.

2. It is learnt that sometime in Aug. 1967, the following six Members of Parliament decided to send a people's petition to the Union President demanding the appointment of a fresh commission to enquire into the circumstances about Netaji's disappearance and to take suitable steps to honour him and redress the grievances of ex-INA personnel:- (1) K. Manoharan, M.P. (DMK) (2) Madhu Limaye, M.P. (SSP) (3) Amiya Nath Bose, M.P. (Ind.) (4) M.L. Sondhi, M.P. (BJS) (5) P.K. Deo, M.P. (Sw.P.) and (6) Samar Guha, M.P. (PSP). In this connection, a copy of our U.O. to MHA dated 10.8.67 is enclosed.

3. Enquiries reveal that the National Committee on Netaji is still in the process of being formed. M.L. Sondhi, M.P. (BJS), convenor, is active in this regard. The aims and objects are being drafted and a list of members prepared after obtaining their consent. The formation of the national committee is expected to be announced by the second week of November. M.L. Sondhi in his capacity as convenor has addressed a circular to prominent MSP requesting for donations to meet expenses connected with the reception to be accorded to Netaji's sword. So far, it is not known if members of the Congress Party have also responded to Sondhi's request.

4. Speaking to pressmen on Nov. 5 at New Delhi, M.L. Sondhi stated that Netaji's sword would arrive in the capital during the first week of December from Calcutta. He said this would be the main highlight of the 2-month programme to be organized in the country to focus attention on various aspects of the life of Netaji. Celebrations would commence on Nov. 23 and end on Jan. 23, 1968 (birthday of Subhas Chandra Bose). It was disclosed that the all-party parliamentary committee, which was finalizing the programme was also keen that the sword forms a part of this year's Republic Day parade. M.L. Sondhi said that the sword would be brought from Calcutta in a special coach and would be received in Delhi by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Delhi Metropolitan Council. He said efforts were also being made to see that the sword was given full military honours on arrival. He said the sword would be placed on public exhibition outside the Red Fort. Besides the reception to the sword, it was planned to hold seminars and symposia, publish literature and Netaji's letters to his relatives and friends, and to hold an exhibition of his works during the 2-month period. It was also planned to set up a Netaji museum in collaboration with the Netaji Bhawan of Calcutta. He disclosed that the Committee would hold a preliminary meeting on Nov. 13 in Delhi to finalize the details

.....(2)

of the programme, and efforts would be made to seek the co-operation of as many people as possible.

5. Information about when and from whom Netaji's sword was received in Calcutta is being collected.

K.N. Prasad
(K.N. Prasad)
Deputy Director

PM's Sectt. (Shri S.P. Khanna)

DIB U.O. No. 6/DG/67(52) dated, the 9 NOV 1967

Enclo:- one.

133787

INTELLIGENCE BUREAU
(Ministry of Home Affairs)

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NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON NETAJI

It is learnt that the following MsP have decided to send a people's petition to the President of the Indian Union, demanding the appointment of a fresh commission to enquire into the circumstances about Netaji's disappearance and to take suitable steps to honour him and redress the grievances of ex-INA personnel:-

- 1) K. Manoharan, M.P. (DMK).
- 2) Madhu Limaye, M.P. (SSP).
- 3) Aniya Nath Bose, M.P. (Ind.)
- 4) M.L. Sondhi, M.P. (BJS).
- 5) P.K. Deo, M.P. (Swatantra)
- 6) Samar Guha, M.P. (PSP).

In the petition to the President, it is stated that they along with millions of Indians regard Netaji as not only one of the greatest patriots but also as one of the top-ranking leaders thrown up by India's struggle for freedom, whose contribution to its historic termination is no less important than that of any other leader. The petition praises the role of the INA in the freedom struggle and states that it was the realization on the part of the Britain ~~and~~ of the grim fact that Indian sepoys could no longer be relied upon to fight Britain's battle in India and her resources in men and money were too exhausted by the war to carry on successful efforts to keep down resurgent India by force. The formation of INA according to the petition demonstrated Netaji's superb statesmanship and talent for military organization. It is regretted that the Government had signally failed to accord due honour and recognition to the unique personality and leadership of Netaji or to his historic role in our freedom struggle.

It urges the Government to take the following steps without delay:

- 1) To place his portrait in the Central Hall of Parliament and all offices of the Government;
- 2) To erect a statue of Netaji on a prominent site in New Delhi, preferably at India Gate;
- 3) To devise suitable means to accord national ~~in~~ ~~tagration~~ recognition to military genius of Netaji;
- 4) To observe his birthday every year with due solemnity;
- 5) To erect suitable memorials at Kohima and Imphal in honour of INA heroes who sacrificed their lives in the liberation struggle under the leadership of Netaji;
- 6) To publish the volume on INA already written for

the "History of Indian Army during the Second War", published by the Government;

- 7) To give him due place in the "History of the Freedom Movement" (planned by the Government of India);
(For this it is necessary to take expert advice on the portion of the manuscript relating to him before it is finally approved for the press).
- 8) To arrange publication of Netaji's writings and speeches.

It also stated that the alleged death of Netaji ~~in a plane crash~~ in a plane crash in 1945 is not believed by large section of the Indian public in spite of the report of the Shah Nawaz Committee. It quotes late Pt. Nehru's letter to Shri Suresh Bose, elder brother of Netaji, that there was no "precise and direct proof" of Netaji's death. It has also referred to other newspaper reports and states that the value of the Shah Nawaz Committee was considerably diminished by the fact that no investigation was made into these reports and that no member of the Committee visited the actual spot of the accident and made any local inquiry. The petition, therefore, urges the Government to make a further inquiry with the collaboration of the Governments of Japan and Taiwan by a small independent committee consisting of a Judge of the Supreme Court and 2 or 3 public men in whose integrity and capacity to conduct such an inquiry, the public has full confidence. It is felt that nothing but such an inquiry will satisfy public opinion by removing the mystery that hangs around Netaji.

Details of the National Committee, if formed, are so far not known to us.

Sd: K.N. Prasad
Dy. Director

MHA (Shri N. Vittal)

DIB U.O. No. 6/DG/67(52) dated 10-8-67.

may 1967

Copy No. 2
Two copies.

SECRET

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Prof. M.L. Sondhi, Convenor, All-Party Parliamentary Committee for Reception of Netaji's Sword. D.I.B. will recall that I spoke to him about this matter on the 31st October, 1967 and he was good enough to say that he would make enquiries about the Committee and let us have a note. No reply has so far been sent by the Prime Minister to Prof. Sondhi's letter. We should, therefore, be grateful if the D.I.B. would kindly let us have the promised note giving information about the composition and aims and objects of the Committee. We should in particular be grateful to be informed whether the Congress Party is represented on this Committee and are taking part in its work. Information about Netaji's sword -- as to when and from whom from Japan it was received and what is proposed to be done to it in Delhi -- would also be useful.

34.11
(S.P. Khanna)
Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister
4.11.1967

D.I.B. (Shri S.P. Varma)
P.M's Sectt. U.O. No. PMS-21386 dt. 4-11-67

Recd
Initial
and date 4/11

14.11.67

10 days
POT

6/11

Serial No. 3

16

No PMS-21387

4th November, 1967.

Dear Sir,

This is to acknowledge with thanks
your undated letter to the Prime Minister
regarding the All-Party Parliamentary
Committee for Reception of Netaji's Sword.

Yours faithfully,

S.P.K.

(S.P. Khanna)
Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister

Prof. M.L. Sondhi, M.P.,
14, Meena Bagh,
New Delhi.

RECEIVED
DATE 4/11/67

4/11/67

Serial No. 1
ALL - PARTY

Parliamentary Committee for Reception of Netaji's Sword

Convenor : **Prof. M. L. SONDHI.**
Member of Parliament for New Delhi.

17
14, Meena Bagh,
New Delhi

My dear *Shrimati Indira Gandhi.*

You are aware that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's influence has worked to unite this country against fissiparous tendencies. His unequalled record of service of the motherland takes on a fresh significance today when he serves as a beacon light to our efforts to achieve political modernisation by reconciling our tradition and the modern scientific outlook.

The advent of his sword to India from Japan has fired the imagination of all men and women of good will who find in Netaji a full manifestation of India's achievement motive. The sword was formally received in Calcutta few months back. We are now taking steps to bring the sword to Delhi. We would like the people of the capital city, men, women and children, to have an opportunity to witness Netaji's sword in the appropriate setting of the Red Fort.

We expect the sword to reach Delhi towards the end of November and we trust the people of Delhi will rise equal to the occasion to show their abiding love and respect for Netaji.

I shall be most grateful if you will kindly indicate your support to the project of bringing Netaji's sword to Delhi. I shall be glad to have your views on the most appropriate way in which the Capital city should receive and do honour to Netaji's sword.

*Shrimati Indira Gandhi,
Prime Minister,
New Delhi.*

Yours sincerely,
M.L. Sondhi
(M.L. Sondhi)

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-2-
D(S) 15/12 ✓
Ministry of External Affairs
(East Asia Division)

No. C/125/ 8 / 67 / JP

New Delhi. 10/12- 1967

Dear Chancery,

Please find enclosed for information a copy
of Starred/~~Un~~starred Question No. 582 together with
its answer given in the Lok/~~Rajya~~ Sabha on 11-12-67

Yours ever,

Ministry

Embassy of India,
Peking. Tokyo

P.T.O.

✓
Copy with a copy of the enclosure mentioned on
page ~~above~~ and note for supplementaries forwarded to the
Prime Minister's Secretariat for information.

K.T. Balani

(Miss) (K.T. Balani)
Section Officer(East Asia)

20/ 3616
STARRED QUESTION NO. 582

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 582

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH DECEMBER 1967

NETAJI'S DEATH

QUESTION

*No. 582 SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in reply to a letter from Shri Suresh Chandra Bose (13.5.62) the late Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru wrote inter alia that 'I cannot send you a direct and precise proof ... of the death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose but circumstantial evidence has convinced us the fact that Netaji has died';
- (b) whether it is also a fact that few weeks before his demise the late Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru in reply to a letter from Shri Amiya Nath Bose, a member of the present Lok Sabha, assured him that some further steps should be taken to reach a finality regarding the controversy about Netaji's death; and
- (c) if so, whether Government propose to send an investigation committee to Formosa to reach a finality about Netaji's death?

-.--.-

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B.R. BHAGAT)

- (a) In his letter of 13th May, 1962 to Shri Suresh Bose, Prime Minister Nehru wrote as follows:-

"You ask me to send you proof of the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. I cannot send you any precise and direct proof. But all the circumstantial evidence that has been produced and which has been referred to in the Enquiry Committee's report has convinced us of the fact that Netaji has died. In addition to this, the lapse of time now and the extreme improbability of his being alive secretly somewhere when he would be welcomed in India with great joy and affection, adds to that circumstantial evidence."

P.M. Leth.

In reply to a subsequent letter from Shri Suresh Bose, Prime Minister Nehru wrote to him on 12th August, 1962 as follows:-

"I wrote to you that all the circumstantial evidence made me believe that Netaji. Subhash Chandra Bose had died. Much of this evidence was given in the report made by the Committee appointed for this purpose, which visited Japan. You will find the date, place and circumstances mentioned in that Committee's Report.

Apart from that report, the length of time that has elapsed is itself confirmatory of the fact of his death."

(b) He gave no assurance. In reply to a letter from Shri Amiya Nath Bose, Prime Minister Nehru wrote on April 22, 1964 as follows:-

"I agree with you that something should be done to finalise the question of Netaji's death. But it is not quite clear to me how far it will be proper for me to ask the Chief Justice of India to look into this matter. It may involve visiting Japan and I am sure I cannot ask the Chief Justice to do so."

(c) The Government of India have stated in reply to various questions in this house in subsequent years that there was no need for a further enquiry because the report of the Shah Nawaz Committee was conclusive.

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NOTE FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES

(On Lok Sabha Starred Question No.582 for 11-12-1967)

.....

In response to the public demand that all the facts relating to the last stages of Netaji's life should be enquired into and made known, an Enquiry Committee was appointed by the Government of India in April, 1956. The Committee consisted of Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, (elder brother of Netaji) and Shri S.N.Maitra, Chief Commissioner of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The report of this Committee which was signed by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan and Shri S.N. Maitra, was released for publication in September, 1956. The Government of India accepted the report. The third member, namely, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose did not sign the report. Later on he submitted a separate report dissenting from the findings of the majority report. After laying a copy of this report on the Table of the House on 11.9.1956, the late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, made a statement in the Lok Sabha in which he said inter alia that Government felt that the evidence adduced in the report was practically overwhelming and should be accepted. The conclusion reached by the Enquiry Committee was that Netaji met his death as a result of an air crash at Taihoku airfield in Formosa on August 18, 1945 and that his ashes are now at the Renkoji Temple in Tokyo.

2. Since the Shah Nawaz Committee Report was published, demands have been made both in Parliament and elsewhere on several occasions that another Enquiry Committee be appointed. The suggestion for this was due to the fact that one of the members, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, the brother of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, did not agree with the findings and submitted a dissentient report. The Government of India, however, have consistently taken the position that neither the dissentient report nor the evidence which Shri Bose had referred justified the view that the findings of the Commission required revision, and have, therefore, refused to order another enquiry. The last time such a request was made was

in 1965 when press reports from Formosa suggesting that the Nationalist Chinese Government have set up a Committee provoked a Parliamentary Question on August 2, 1966, from Shri Chitta Basu. At that time, the Foreign Minister repeated that "it has been stated several times in Parliament that the Government of India have accepted the findings of the Netaji Enquiry Committee headed by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan."

3. In 1962, a controversy was started stating that the Sanyasi of Shaulmari Ashram was Netaji. This has been indignantly denied by the Sanyasi himself and reiterated in a Bengali leaflet issued by the Ashram.

4. Dr. Satya Narain Sinha came up with a statement that Netaji was at present incarcerated in Cell No.46 of Yakutusk prison in Siberia. The statement is difficult to verify and the Government have absolutely no information to corroborate this view.

5. More recently Lt. General (Retired) Fujiwara who claims to have discovered a presentation sworn owned by Netaji in a Tokyo curio shop and who came to India to present this relic suggested an Indo-Japanese Committee to go into the question of Netaji's death to arrive at a conclusion "once and for all". Unfortunately the General has not specified the nature of his doubts and it is also relevant to note the fact of his long silence and that he did not come forth as a witness in front of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee.

6. Although the Committee did not go to Formosa for political reasons, they met a large number of very relevant witnesses including Col. Habibur Rahman (Netaji's co-traveller on the fatal trip) and several Japanese army and civil doctors, officials and nurses who returned to Tokyo after the war. As Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and the present Prime Minister have often reiterated, the Government of India have accepted the findings of the Shah Nawaz Committee in toto and consider the evidence adduced by them to be overwhelmingly conclusive of Netaji's death. In the fact of the lack of any fresh evidence, there is no reason for the Government to agree to undertake the task of appointing a new Committee to go into what they already accepted as being the truth.

Additional notes suggested by J.S. to P.M.

A set of the letters exchanged between Prime Minister Nehru and Shri Suresh Bose or Shri Amiya Bose are enclosed, including those referred to in the question and in the draft replies.

It is true that in his letter of April 22, 1964 Prime Minister Nehru 'agreed' with Shri Amiya Bose that something should be done to "finalise the question of Netaji's death". But he gave no assurance and there is nothing to suggest, in the context of the entire correspondence, that at any time Prime Minister Nehru had entertained doubts about the conclusive character of the evidence cited by the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee or others to establish Netaji's death. Presumably, what Shri Nehru had in mind was that something should be done to persuade those who still doubted this fact to accept the finality of the conclusion that Netaji was no more.

Subsequently in the years 1965, 66 and 67, Government have clearly stated in reply to the various questions that there was no need for a further enquiry into Netaji's death as the Report of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee was conclusive.

The most important circumstantial evidence on which Shri Nehru had relied, (according to his letter of May 13, 1962), is, to put it in his own words- "The lapse of time now and the extreme improbability of his being alive secretly somewhere when he would be welcomed in India with great joy and affection."

25

Suresh C. Bose.

Dated 12th May, 1962.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru,
Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

Dear Shri Nehru,

The report in the papers of the 8th instant is to the effect that you stated in Parliament on the previous day, in reply to a question by Shri P.C. Barooah that the majority report of the Netaji Enquiry Committee established that my brother Shri Subhas Chandra Bose, died in an air-accident.

If you hold this piece of news to be correct, it affects the members of our family more than the general public, who, however, are also deeply interested in its correctness or otherwise.

I would, therefore, request you as his elder brother and as the seniormost surviving member of the family to forward to me the proof of his death, together with the date, month, year, place and the circumstances under which such alleged death took place.

In the expectation of a reply and with kind regards,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-Suresh C. Bose
12.5.62.